

TOWN of DARIEN
MONUMENTS & CEREMONIES COMMISSION
Town Hall, 2 Renshaw Road, Darien, Connecticut 06820

MINUTES

Monuments and Ceremonies Commission
February 9, 2010

RECEIVED
MAR - 9 2010
4:20 PM
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
DARIEN CT.

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 PM by Chairman, Phil Kraft. Commissioners attending included: Ed Carabillo, Marian Castell, Phil Kraft, Dave Polett, Karen Polett, Ken Reiss, Bob Riith, Charles Scribner, and George Walsh. Janice Marzano attended and represented both the Darien Depot and the Stamford VFW. Also in attendance were George Brookner and landscape architect, Lesley Macaulay Kroll with police officers, Gary Pavia, Duane Lovello, and Court Isaac. Judy Groppa representing the Darien Historical Society and Donna Russo, Vice Principal of Darien High School were also present.

Minutes of the January 12, 2010 meeting were accepted as read on a motion by Charles Scribner, second Ken Reiss. Chairman, Kraft passed out the meeting agenda. However, Darien Boat Club Representative, David Dever did not attend. See included agenda copy.

Patrolman, Court Isaac introduced landscape architect, Lesley Macaulay who presented an impressive and comprehensive plan including a three-dimensional model for improving and modernizing the plantings around the Soldier's Monument and flagpole in the Darien Veteran's Cemetery. She noted that the monument was culturally significant and serves as a memorial to the soldiers buried there, a reminder of the Town's rich history and a place for mourners. She described in detail the size and type of deer-resistant plantings including miniature boxwoods, white vinca, red poppies, taxis, red maples and white daffodils which would be included in the planned improvements. Total costs were estimated at \$8,000.

Root systems of the plantings were mentioned so that nothing would negatively impact the tombstones. Lesley assured the Commission that the stones would remain intact. Judy Groppa noted that the Soldier's Monument was completed as part of the WPA project and is the largest sculpture done by the WPA in Connecticut.

The Monuments and Ceremonies Commission voted unanimously to approve, support and help to coordinate the planned improvements to the Soldier's Monument in the Darien Veteran's Cemetery on a motion by Ken Reiss, second Dave Polett. It was noted that our powers are limited to recommending this plan to the Selectmen.

BOB RIITH

A sub-committee composed of Janice Marzano, Phil Kraft, Lesley Macaulay Kroll, Donna Russo and Judy Groppa was formed to explore fundraising and details of this proposal. Funding to maintain the plantings once they are done also needs to be provided. A meeting time for this group will be determined by the members. Various fundraising methods were discussed and Phil Kraft offered to set up a separate fund as part of the VFW 501C19. This way, donations will be tax deductible. Phil went on to pledge \$500. from the National Veteran's Services Group towards this project and Janice Marzano pledged \$100. from the Stamford VFW.

In other business:

A letter to Mr. Sara regarding his proposal for a town monument for Stephen T. Mather was distributed and its contents unanimously approved by the Commission. Mr. Sara attended the January Commission meeting. Phil Kraft will sign and mail the letter to Mr. Sara. See copy included.

Phil noted that the Darien/Norwalk YWCA has asked about instructions for marching in the Memorial Day Parade 2010, and Phil has answered the email with pertinent details.

Walter Erickson who served in the China/Burma/India campaign was suggested as this year's Memorial Day Parade Grand Marshal and Darien High School student, Michelle DeSoiza will be the Speaker.

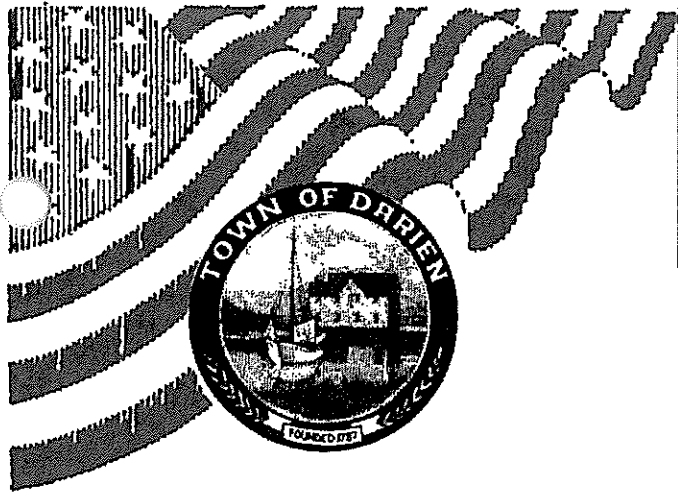
Phil and Chick will inventory our flags and were authorized to order any they feel we may require. See copy of partial inventory. Chick said 8 dozen 12x18 inches flags were needed and also commented on the disarray of the Town Hall basement room where our flags, ceremonial stands, and the Memorial Day bunting, etc are stored. Phil suggested that he and Chick meet with David Campbell and perhaps find a different, better and more secure space. Other organizations which share this room make it difficult for us to reach our materials. Chick also suggested that he donate the flag to the Indian Guides since they borrow it each year for the Parade. Motion approved to give this flag to the Indian Guides was made by George Walsh, second Bob Riith.

Ken Reiss noted that the key to the Town Hall showcase is not in the receptionist's drawer. Books in the case need to be repositioned.

Meeting was adjourned at 4: 47 PM on a motion by Ed Carabillo, second George Walsh.

Submitted by,
Karen K. Polett
Karen K. Polett
Secretary

Phillip Kraft
CHAR

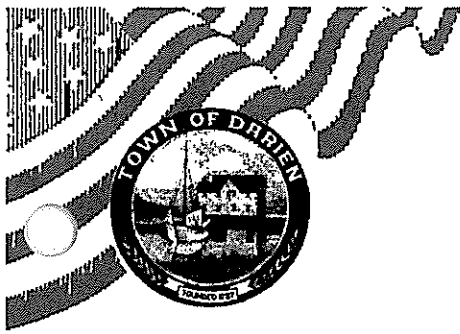


**TOWN of DARIEN
MONUMENTS & CEREMONIES
COMMISSION**

Town Hall,
2 Renshaw Road,
Darien, CT 06820

AGENDA
February 9, 2010

1. Dave Devers, Darien Boat Club. RE: Peartree Point Memorial Day Observance.
- ✓ 2. Court Isaacs, Darien Police Dept. RE: CT State Veterans' Cemetery improvements.
- ✓ 3. Gary Sara's request for Mather Monument.
- ✓ 4. Letters for parade participation.



TOWN of DARIEN
MONUMENTS & CEREMONIES COMMISSION
Town Hall, 2 Renshaw Road, Darien, Connecticut 06820

Mr. Gary Sara
Landmark Facilities Group, Inc.
252 East Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06855

Dear Gary:

Thank you for bringing your ideas for a monument in commemoration of the work of Stephen T. Mather to the Darien Monuments and Ceremonies Commission. The Commission agrees that the significant contribution Mr. Mather made to our nation is indeed worthy of recognition in Darien.

However, in your planning please bear in mind that the town's capacity for monuments is very limited, and the Commission feels strongly that preference for such monuments should be given to individuals or groups from the town who have made memorable contributions to this community. Strictly speaking, Mr. Mather, who was neither a native nor a full-time resident, and who made no mark on Darien per se, falls into none of those categories. And, with a prominent road, a national historic landmark, and a plaque in the lobby of Town Hall, Mr. Mather is already the most thoroughly commemorated single individual in Darien.

Should you wish to proceed with this project, the next step would be to submit to the Commission the following:

- A more detailed rendering of a proposed design or designs;
- One or more viable location options;
- Feedback from the Mather family;
- A preliminary budget and fund-raising strategy;
- Plan for post-construction site maintenance.

As an alternative, the Commission would welcome a plan to upgrade the Mather memorial in the lobby of Town Hall. Of course, any plan recommended by the Commission which involved the use of Town property would require the final approval of the Board of Selectmen, probably the Architectural Review Board, and/or the department responsible for the property involved.

Should you at any time wish to present the Stephen Mather story in the showcase in the lobby of Town Hall, the Commission would be happy to receive your application.

Sincerely,

Phil Kraft
Chairman

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

MONUMENTS AND CEREMONIES COMMISSION
FLAG AND PARADE ACCESSORIES INVENTORY

February 2010

- 3 5' x 9 1/2' Nylon U. S. Flags (For Town Hall)
- 6 5' x 8' Polyester U. S. Flags **(1 in Town Hall storage)
- 2 4' x 6' Polyester U. S. Flags **
- 6 3' x 5' Polyester U. S. Flags **
- 9 3' x 5' U. S. Printed cotton flags
- 4 3' x 5' Nylon U. S. Pole Hem Parade Flags *
- 4 3' x 5' Nylon State Pole Hem Parade Flags *
- 1 3' x 5' Nylon Columbus Day Flag
- 1 3' x 5' Jamaica Flag
- 6 Nylon Rain Covers
- 8 9" Golden Eagle (Metal) Pole Tops *
- 8 8' Oak Parade Poles *
- 7 Brown Parade Belts *
- 4 Freedom Stands
- 2 60-Yard Bolts Cotton Bunting
- 24 3' x 6' Full Bunting Fans-cotton-5 stripe (2 boxes)
- 4 Grand Marshall Sashes with Florets
- 484 12" x 18" U. S. Flags- cotton-on staff, used
- 119 12" x 18" U. S. Flags- cotton on staff, new
- 1 Universal Spear
- 2 Magnetized Parade signs for cars

500 +or- Flags needed for Spring Grove Cemetery

* One complete set to Indian Guides for use in Memorial Day Parade being stored at home of Doug McKay, 83 Gardener St., Darien.

** Flags being stored in Phil Kraft's office